

**Amendments to the Specification**

On page 1, before “**Field of Invention**” please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,490, entitled “Systems And Methods For Alleviating Client Over-Subscription In Ring Networks,” filed August 19, 2003, and naming Necdet Uzun and Mike Takefman as the inventors.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention provides a method. ~~Information is received indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted through a first media access control (MAC) device to a client of the first MAC device. A message is formed including an indication to a second MAC device to change a rate at which the second MAC device transmits data. The message is transmitted to the second MAC device over a network. A first queue is provided corresponding to a first media access control (MAC) device to which data is to be transmitted over a network. Data destined for at least one of the first MAC device and a client of the first MAC device is received. At least a portion of the data destined for the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device is stored in the first queue. Information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device is received. Data stored in the first queue is selectively transmitted to the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device. A rate at which the selectively transmitting is performed is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device.~~

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] Another aspect of the present invention provides an apparatus including a first MAC device, ~~and a MAC client coupled to the first MAC device. The first MAC device is operable to be coupled to a network. The first MAC device includes control logic configured to prepare a message for transmission on the network including an indication~~

~~to change a rate at which another MAC device transmits data. The MAC client includes a buffer for storing data transmitted to the MAC client and buffer control circuitry configured to provide information about an amount of data stored in the buffer. a buffer coupled to the first MAC device, a packet processor coupled to the buffer, a first plurality of queues, and at least one shaper circuit. The first MAC device is operable to be coupled to a network. The buffer is operable to receive data from the first MAC device. Each of the first plurality of queues corresponds to a respective network station. The at least one shaper circuit is configured to dequeue data stored in at least one of the first plurality of queues based at least in part on at least a portion of information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the first plurality of queues.~~

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] ~~Another aspect of the present invention provides another apparatus including: a first MAC device. The first MAC device is operable to be coupled to a network and includes control logic, a buffer, and buffer control circuitry. The control logic is configured to prepare a message for transmission on the network including an indication to change a rate at which another MAC device transmits data. The buffer is for storing data transmitted to a MAC client. The buffer control circuitry is configured to provide information about an amount of data stored in the buffer. a first means for receiving and queuing data destined for a network station; a first means for receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the network station; and a first means for selectively transmitting data stored in the first means for receiving and queuing to the network station; wherein a rate at which the first means for selectively transmitting data transmits data is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the network station.~~

Please delete paragraph [0017].

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Another aspect of the present invention provides a computer readable medium comprising program instructions executable on a processor, the computer readable medium being at least one of an electronic storage medium, a magnetic storage medium, an optical storage medium, and a communications medium conveying signals encoding the instructions. The program instructions are operable to implement each of: ~~receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted through a first media access control (MAC) device to a client of the first MAC device; forming a message including an indication to a second MAC device to change a rate at which the second MAC device transmits data; and transmitting the message to the second MAC device over a network;~~ providing a first queue corresponding to a first media access control (MAC) device to which data is to be transmitted over a network; receiving data destined for at least one of the first MAC device and a client of the first MAC device; storing at least a portion of the data destined for the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device in the first queue; receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device; and selectively transmitting data stored in the first queue to the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device. A rate at which the selectively transmitting is performed is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the at least one of the first MAC device and the client of the first MAC device.